

ALASKA FARM REPORTER

Alaska Division of Agriculture
Alaska Cooperative Extension
Ag & Forestry Experiment Station



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

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March 23, 2006

06-03

MILK PRODUCTION

ALASKA: February milk production of 0.7 million pounds was down 36 percent from the 1.1 million pounds a year earlier and down 100,000 pounds from January 2006. Production per cow at 920 pounds was down 20 pounds from a year ago and compares with 980 pounds per cow in January. Milk cows at 800 head were the same as January but down 400 head from a year ago. Total milk production for January and February was 1.5 million pounds compared with 2.3 million pounds for the same period in 2005.

Milk production in the **23 Major States** during February totaled 13.0 billion pounds, up 5.9 percent from February 2005. January production, at 14.0 billion pounds, was up 5.5 percent from January 2005.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,588 pounds for February, 66 pounds above February 2005.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.21 million head, 121,000 head more than February 2005, and 118,000 head more than January 2006.

ALASKA POTATO STOCKS

All potatoes in storage in **ALASKA** as of March 1, 2006 totaled 93,000 cwt. This was 56 percent of the 2005 crop and compares with 106,000 cwt or 60 percent on hand during the same period last year. The 2003 level for the March 1 stocks was 62,000 cwt. The five year average stocks on hand for March 1 is 90,200 cwt.

Disappearance since January 1 was 25,000 cwt, compared to 20,000 cwt for the same period last year. The five year average disappearance between January and March is 26,600 cwt. Disappearance of potatoes from the start of the harvest to March 1 totaled 73,000 cwt; comparable disappearance for a year earlier was 71,000 cwt. The five year average disappearance is 81,400 cwt. The disappearance since October 1 reflects sales, shrinkage and waste, as well as losses caused after harvest by late blight and frost damage. In 2005 late blight was identified in fields in the Mat-Su Valley. Losses in the field due to late blight ranged from severe to mild. Losses post-harvest are included in the disappearance. In 2004 there was a small loss of potatoes due to frost damage, while in 2003 there was significant loss due to frost damage that is reflected in the disappearance.

The **13 MAJOR POTATO STATES** held 154 million cwt of potatoes in storage March 1, 2006, down 8 percent from last year and 7 percent below March 1, 2004, for comparable States. Ohio and Pennsylvania were dropped from the potato stocks program starting with the 2005 storage season. Potatoes in storage account for 41 percent of the 2005 fall storage States' production, down 1 percentage point from last year.

Disappearance of 219 million cwt of potatoes is down 6 percent from last year for comparable States. Shrink and loss, at 20.1 million cwt so far this season, is down 18 percent from last year for comparable States.

Processors in the 9 major States have used 115 million cwt of potatoes this season, down 3 percent from a year ago and 5 percent below two years ago. Dehydrating usage accounts for 23.2 million cwt of the total processing, down 11 percent from both last year and the same date in 2004.

Alaska Agricultural Statistics Service
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<p>HIGHLIGHTS</p> <p>POTATO STOCKS ON March 1, 2006 TOTALED 93,000 CWT</p> <p>FEBRUARY MILK PRODUCTION DOWN 36 PERCENT FROM THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR</p>	<p>SPRING CALENDAR</p>	<p>2006 ALASKA CERTIFIED PESTICIDE APPLICATOR CONFERENCE Sponsored by UAF CES, State of Alaska, Dept of Environmental Conservation March 28, 2006 8:00 am – 5:00 pm BP Energy Center, Anchorage For more information, please call: (907)786-6300</p> <p>ALASKA ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS 2006 Spring Meeting April 6 – 8 Millennium Hotel, Anchorage For more information, please call (907)373-7923</p>	<p>Internet Access to ALASKA reports at: http://www.nass.usda.gov/ak</p> <p>Internet Access to all NASS Reports at: http://www.usda.gov/nass/</p> <p>SUZAN BENZ Agricultural Statistician Phone: 1-800-478-6079 (907) 745-4272</p>
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ALASKA FARM NUMBERS AND LAND IN FARMS - 1996 - 2005

Year	Land in Farms (000 Acres)	Total All Farms 1/	Average Farm Size (Acres)	Cattle	Hogs	Sheep
1996	920	550	1673	120	50	40
1997	910	560	1625	120	50	40
1998	910	580	1569	120	50	40
1999	910	580	1569	120	60	40
2000	910	580	1569	130	50	30
2001	900	600	1500	130	50	30
2002	900	610	1475	120	50	40
2003	900	610	1475	120	50	40
2004	900	620	1452	120	50	40
2005	900	640	1406	120	50	40

1/ Includes farms and ranches with annual sales or potential sales of \$1,000 or more